Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* A survey is in progress. I may say it is about 60 per cent over.

Mr. A. L. Antony *(Irinjalakkuda):* Can we expect it this year?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* I cannot promise that the work can be started in 1118. But it can be started early in 1119.

CHENGAL BRIDGE—UNSAFE CONDITION OF

170. Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether their attention has been drawn to the unsafe condition of the Chengal Bridge of the Trichur—Ernakulam Trunk Road;

(*b*) was not this subject brought to the notice of the Government during the Kumbham session;

(*c*) what action was taken in the matter subsequently?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):*

(*a*) The condition of the bridge is not satisfactory; but repairs are being done according to necessity.

(*b*) There was a question on this subject.

(*c*) The damaged planks of the deck have been renewed wherever necessary. Such repairs will be attended to till the entire decking is renewed.

THANIKUDAM IRRIGATION SCHEME

171. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether they had at any time investigated an irrigation scheme called the Thanikudam Irrigation Scheme;

(*b*) when was that investigation conducted;

(*c*) how many acres of land were found possible to be benefitted by the scheme (please give details);

(*d*) what was the amount spent on the investigation;

(*e*) what is the probable cost to work the scheme to completion?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):*

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) During the years 1108—1109.

(*c*) (1) About 800 acres of dry land can be converted into single crop wet.

(2) About 400 acres of single crop can be converted into double crop.

(3) About 600 acres of existing double crop land also will have the benefit of irrigation supply.

(*d*) No separate accounts were kept for this scheme alone and hence it is not possible to give the figure. This scheme was investigated along with the others.

(*e*) The scheme was then estimated to cost Rs. 43,000. Details are being collected for the preparation of an estimate now.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know why such a useful scheme as the one investigated in 1108 and 1109 was not pushed further during the course of these 9 years?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* We submitted the scheme and the Revenue Department also scrutinised and they were of opinion that it cannot be predicted with any degree of certainty that the 800 acres of dry land will then be converted into single crop. In 1108 and 1109 the price of paddy was very low and so there was no prospect of these 800 acres of parambas being converted into single crop lands. If these 800 acres cannot be converted into single crop or will not be converted into single crop the scheme becomes very unremunerative. The extra income which the Government may have to incur on this scheme will not commensurate with the expenditure involved. That was why the scheme was postponed. But now with the improvement in the price of paddy the Government feel that the scheme will be useful and I will submit an estimate within about 6 weeks' time.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* May I know whether there was not a scheme called the Naduthodu Anicut Scheme in 1099 and 1100.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* There was no such scheme.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* I think there was a scheme during the time of Diwan Mr. Narayana Menon.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly